(4) the gradual reduction in the number of the abkari shops;

(5) restriction of the hours of the sale of intoxicants;

(6) the abolition of the Nagercoil Distillery;

(7) the prohibition of the import of opium and ganja and of foreign liquors; and

(8) the enactment of a law penalising the use of intoxicants by persons under 18 years of age.

Dewan's reply.—The drink question is a question which is engaging the attention of Governments all over the world, and you know that it is engaging the attention of this Government also. In reply to a resolution brought before the Legislative Council at its last meeting, the Government said that it would ask the Excise Commissioner to investigate the matter very carefully and to suggest measures which would minimise the drink evil. I do not think, therefore, that I should say anything more in regard to it except that it will engage the very serious attention of the Government and their officers.

You have made a number of suggestions on the subject of excise administration. Such suggestions are made everywhere and are being considered everywhere. Here also they are being considered.

You admit that the Government have enunciated their policy in this matter with a sense of responsibility, but at the same time you say that there are certain activities of the Government which lead you to the conclusion that the Government are encouraging the drink evil. You mention two or three matters and draw your inference from them that the Government are actually encouraging the drink evil. I must say that you are not justified in drawing such an inference. You refer to the promptitude with which Magistrates are disposing of cases connected with the movement. I can see no harm in Magistrates disposing of their work promptly. You refer to the case relating to a Vakil of Haripad, which is still *sub judice*; you refer to the deputation of Excise Inspector Mr. Kesavan on special duty; you refer to certain rumours, and, lastly, you also refer to certain security cases which have been taken and are expected to be taken in circumstances in which a breach of the peace is apprehended. You have not established that, in connection with the anti-tapping movement or the sale of liquor shops, there have not been attempts to intimidate or commit unlawful acts or instigate peaceful citizens to commit them. This is the primary duty of the Government to maintain law and order. From the one or two measures which Government have taken to discharge this elementary duty you cannot jump to the conclusion that Government are encouraging the drink evil.

III. PROTECTION.

Legislation, Criminal and Civil Justice.

34. Need for exempting cardamom ryots from taking out licenses want of timely sion of guns.

Mr. S. P. Sultan Ahamad Budrudin Rowther (Member, Dev ventilating the that formerly there was no Arms Regulation in the country, and e disposal of cases introduced subsequently and Rules framed thereunder, cardamom not settled in civil ing a tax of Rs. 100 and above were exempted from the pro suits was inordinately the provisions of the revised Arms Rules, however, only proper supervision of the Rs. 500 and above could claim the benefit of such exemptions which the liti- Member's opinion, was a grievance to the other ryots who ficulties in the execution of plantations from the ravages of wild animals and from t stly and troublesome that adjoining British frontier. He requested that, as before, rather than resort to the a tax of Rs. 100 and above might be exempted from the system of supervision of the gulation and the Rules thereunder.

Dewan's reply.—The object of taking out licenties. He, therefore, requested the Government to know how many licenses have beesal of cases and for the more there are in the country. This information is esser examined the license register at Devicolam last yea ce of Magistrates, especially the ing courts till late in the evening, ntinued.

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found that licenses were being promptly issued. I would, however, write to the Commissioner, if you could give me a list of undisposed of applications for licenses in your locality.

35. Need for a law to penalise or to prevent the sale of putrid fish for human consumption.

Mr. A. R. St. George (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) withdrew his representation.

36. Grievances of the people regarding the Registration Rules and suggestions for removing them.

Mr. N. Subbaraya Shenoi (Member, Municipal Council, Alleppey) represented the grievances which the public experienced as a result of certain provisions in the Rules recently issued under Section 64 of the Registration Regulation, II of 1087. He said that certain persons were entitled to apply to the registration officer for attendance at their residence for recording admission in documents and that such applications had to be promptly acceded to by the officer concerned. He referred to Rule 58 (clauses 1 & 2) of the Rules which laid down that the registering officer should, if required, in the course of attendance at a private residence, accept for registration or record the admission in respect of the several documents executed by one person, or record, in respect of the same document or documents, the admission also of other persons, residing together *and entitled to the concession*, and similarly also in regard to the several powers-of-attorney executed by the same person or signatures to a joint power-of-attorney of several persons residing together *and entitled to the concession*. The Member said that the words "and entitled to the concession" in the above Rule, besides causing much inconvenience to the parties, made it impossible for the registering officer to complete the execution of the document in one and the same place and in the presence of all the parties, and that led to unnecessary dispute and litigation. He, therefore, suggested that the words "and entitled to the concession" be deleted from Rule 58, so that the registering officer might record the admission of all the parties residing together in one and the same place, as was the case formerly.

The Member next suggested that Rule 24 of the Registration Rules, which disallowed the Director of Registration to order the registration of certain documents wherein property was described by a specific reference to an instrument which had been registered in the same office, might be so modified as to empower the Director to issue general orders to all registering officers to register documents relating to cancellation, further charge, receipt, reconveyance of mortgaged property, etc., wherein (4) Mr. laries of the properties were not given in full, but only the survey numbers duty to con a, provided that such documents referred to instruments which were pretered as between the same parties and at the same office.

The Member prayer of the Member was that, in view of the commercial imporlves with all mo , the Sub-Registrar of that town might be empowered to receive erica where absolute cument irrespective of the question as to where the properties States whose Govern uated, additional fees for the purpose being imposed by the the demon of drink.

lso and the Member urged

emperance among the peber suggested that a set of forms and registers might be fall in the State revenue con of chitties, so as to enable them to maintain uniform population which did not wa so as to facilitate the examination of such records by f heavier taxation. e Member also prayed that the Registration Rules The Member then suggested the ee of experienced officers.

(1) the non-intervention of th representations will be disposed of after consulting by Ezhavas ;

(2) the administration of the **e abolition of the practice of producing before Sub-**the sale of intoxicants, includi**nts presented for registration.**nd ganja ;

(Member, Nominated) stated that, between th

(3) the early adoption of the ctice of preserving duplicate copies of registered

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